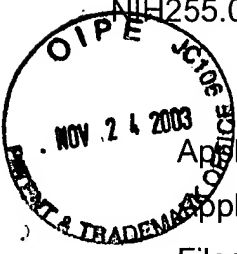


NH255.001NP

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE



Applicant : Yanagi et al.
Appl. No. : 09/980,559
Filed : May 14, 2002
For : CLONED GENOME OF
INFECTIOUS HEPATITIS C VIRUS
OF GENOTYPE 2A AND USES
THEREOF
Examiner : Li, Bao Q.
Group Art Unit : 1648

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

In response to the restriction Requirement mailed September 24, 2003 in the above-identified application, Applicant responds as follows:

Restriction to one of the following groups was required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372:

Group I Claims 1-5, 8-9 and 37, drawn to a purified and isolated DNA molecule encoding a human hepatitis C virus (HCV) of genotype 2a and a cell transfected with such molecule.

Group II Claims 6-7 and 10-11, drawn to a purified and isolated RNA molecule encoding a human hepatitis C virus of genotype 2a and a cell transfected with such molecule.

Group III Claims 12-13, 19, 21, 29 and 35, drawn to an HCV polypeptide and an antibody against the polypeptide.

Group IV Claims 14-17 and 31, drawn to another HCV polypeptide and an antibody.

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Group V Claims 20, 22, 30 and 36 drawn to another HCV polypeptide and an antibody.

Group VI Claim 18, drawn to a method for producing hepatitis C virus.

Group VII Claim 32, drawn to an antibody against HCV.

Group VIII Claims 23 and 27, drawn to a method for assaying a candidate anti-viral agent by measuring the presence or absence of HCV replication.

Group IX Claims 25-26 and 28, drawn to a method for assaying a candidate anti-viral agent by measuring the presence or absence of protease activity of HCV.

Group X Claims 33-34, drawn to a method for determining the susceptibility of cells in vitro to support HCV infection.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicant elects Group I, that is Claims 1-5, 8-9 and 37.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that this application be passed to issuance. If any points remain that can be resolved by telephone, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-given telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 11/21/03

By: 

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